

[All dates in February unless otherwise specified]

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages—dates		Crest	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE—continued					
Black:	Feet			Feet	
Corning, Ark.	11	{ (1) 4	1 19	14.8	Jan. 20
		28	28	13.0	7-8
Black Rock, Ark.	14	{ (1) 4	1 23.6	11.1	Jan. 15
			15	18.5	15
Cache: Patterson, Ark.	9	(1) 18	18	11.5	Jan. 15
Tallahatchie: Swan Lake, Miss.	25	(1) (2)	31.9	31.9	Jan. 27-29
Sulphur:					
Ringo Crossing, Tex.	20	4	5	21.8	5
Finley, Tex.	24	7	11	26.3	8
Ouachita:					
Arkadelphia, Ark.	12	4	6	18.9	5
Camden, Ark.	30	7	12	34.8	9
WEST GULF DRAINAGE					
Trinity:					
Trinidad, Tex.	28	6	6	28.8	6
Liberty, Tex.	25	7	10	25.8	8-9

1 Continued from last month.

2 Continued at end of month.

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, FEBRUARY, 1930

By J. B. KINCER

General summary.—The weather for February, 1930, was in marked contrast to January, for temperatures were decidedly above normal, particularly in those sections that had the greatest minus departures in January. Some areas showed a range of about 25° in the departures from normal for the two months, varying from -12° in January to +16° or more in February.

The mild weather during the first decade was favorable for outside operations, but the soil remained too wet to work in many areas, although abundant sunshine aided in drying. The main wheat sections were mostly bare of snow, with some complaints of heaving in the Ohio Valley, while parts of the southwestern belt continued dry. Winter truck crops made satisfactory advance in the South and the weather generally favored livestock interests in the great western grazing areas. Plowing was largely prevented in the Corn Belt due to wet soil, but seasonal operations made fairly good advance in the Cotton Belt.

During the second decade there was a rather severe cold wave, but the period was fairly favorable for agricultural interests. Wheat fields were partially protected in the main producing sections, but toward the close of the decade they were again mostly bare; there were some further complaints of freezing and thawing in interior valleys. There were no material damaging low temperatures in the South and winter truck crops made fairly good advance, except for too much moisture on the lowlands of Florida. Livestock were again favored; plowing was rather inactive in the Corn Belt, but much work was accomplished in the Cotton Belt.

During the last decade the continued mild weather caused rapid advance of vegetation generally and espe-

cially to early fruit trees, with decided swelling of buds noted north to the central valley areas and some early plum bloom showing in the lower Ohio Valley. There was much apprehension felt at the close of the month from possible frost injury. The period was generally ideal for outside operations and much spring work was accomplished. Grass and wheat fields showed a decided greening to central valley sections and the weather conditions were favorable in the western range country. The soil continued too wet in many parts of the Corn Belt for active preparation of the soil, but in the Cotton Belt much plowing was accomplished.

Small grains.—The mild weather during the first decade caused the snow to disappear rapidly and large areas were bare. There were no indications of serious injury from the January freezes, but reports of unfavorable freezing and thawing came from the Ohio Valley, although no material damage was indicated. The remaining oat crop made fair advance in the South, while the soil was too wet for spring seeding. There was further reduction of the snow cover in the Northwest during the second decade, while freezing and thawing conditions continued in the Ohio Valley, although damage was not extensive. Winter wheat was mostly satisfactory and precipitation was favorable in the Pacific Northwest. Winter cereals improved in the South and at the close of the period spring oats were being sown north to Oklahoma and Arkansas.

The abnormally warm weather during the last decade caused a complete disappearance of the few patches of snow remaining in the Winter Wheat Belt and fields were greening north to Iowa and New York. Condition of the crop appeared satisfactory generally, except for some complaints in the Ohio Valley, particularly to the late-planted. Some spring wheat was seeded and preparations for seeding spring oats advanced rapidly with a little put in locally north to Kansas.

Miscellaneous crops.—The abnormally warm weather during the month was very favorable for livestock interests; shed lambing especially was benefited. The disappearance of the snow cover opened much range and permitted active grazing, with a consequent saving of feed. There were reports of continued dryness in the Southwest, especially in eastern New Mexico and western Texas, but in most other of the great western grazing sections range and water conditions were satisfactory.

Those truck crops which survived the freezes in January continued in satisfactory condition and spring planting progressed well throughout the month, except on some wet lowlands in Florida. At the close of the month planting potatoes and early garden crops had advanced north to Maryland and in the Middle West to Missouri. The abnormally warm weather caused fruit buds to advance prematurely and at the close of the month swelling was reported north to southern Wisconsin and color showing in some early varieties to southern Indiana. Peaches and plums were in full bloom in parts of the Gulf section. Citrus groves did well in Florida and California.